

CLAIMS

1. A system for providing printed information to a user that is obtained from a first server means of a first party, the system including:
- 5 a user printer module being provided by a second party for interfacing the user with the first server means, the module being responsive to the user requesting first information from the first server means for generating a first printed media that displays the first information;
- 10 identifier means of a third party for providing the first printed media with an identifier such that designation of the identifier by the user results in the module communicating second information to the first server means or to a second server means of a fourth party; and
- 15 account means for providing payments to the third party and for receiving payments from one or more of the first party, the second party and the fourth party.
2. A system according to claim 1 including calculation means which is responsive to the identifier means and/or the module for determining the quantum of the payments.
3. A system according to claim 1 including a plurality of modules provided to respective users, wherein the calculation means is responsive to the number of first media printed by the modules for determining the quantum of the payment received from one or more of the first, second and fourth parties.
4. A system according to claim 3 wherein the calculation means is responsive to the number of occurrences of second information being sent to the first server means or the second server means for determining the quantum of the payment from the first party or the fourth party respectively.

5. A system according to claim 4 wherein the first and the fourth parties are respective on-line publishers and the payments they make are one or a combination of: a fixed amount for a predetermined period; proportional to the number of their advertisements that are printed.

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~~6. A system according to claim 5 wherein the publishers gain payment from respective advertisers for the advertisements that are placed.~~

7. A system according to claim 1 wherein the fourth party is an on-line vendor and
10 the second information received by the fourth party is indicative of an order by the user for goods and/or services provided by the vendor.

8. A system according to claim 7 wherein the calculation means is responsive to the value and/or quantity of the goods and/or services ordered for determining the
15 quantum of the payment from the vendor.

9. A system according to claim 7 including a plurality of respective on-line vendors wherein the calculation means determines the payments from those vendors in proportion to the value of the goods and/or services ordered by the user from the
20 respective vendors.

~~10. A system according to claim 1 wherein the account means provides payments to the second party.~~

25 11. A system according to claim 10 wherein the calculation means is responsive to the number of first media printed by the modules for determining the quantum of the payment to the second party.

12. A system according to claim 1 wherein the calculation means determines the timing of the payments.

13. A system according to claim 12 wherein each party has a respective account
5 from which payments are transferred to or from, as the case may be.

14. A system according to claim 13 wherein the payments are effected electronically.

10 15. A system according to claim 1 wherein, upon receipt of the second information by the first server means or the second server means, the system generates a second printed media that displays third information which is derived from the first party or the fourth party respectively.

15 16. A system according to claim 15 wherein the second printed media is generated by the module.

17. A system according to claim 16 wherein the identifier means provides the second printed media with a second identifier such that designation of the second
20 identifier by the user results in the module communicating fourth information to the first server means or the second server means.

18. A system according to claim 17 wherein the calculation means is responsive to the number of occurrences of the fourth information being communicated.

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19. A system according to claim 1 wherein the first printed media includes fifth information in addition to the first information.

20. A system according to claim 19 wherein the fifth information is derived from a fifth party and the account means receives a payment from the fifth party.

21. A system according to claim 20 wherein the calculation means is responsive to 5 the number of first media printed for determining the quantum of the payment from the fifth party.

22. A system according to claim 20 wherein the first printed media contains unsolicited advertising from the fifth party.

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23. A system according to claim 20 wherein the fifth party is either an on-line advertiser or an on-line publisher.

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24. A system according to claim 1 wherein the identifier means stores first and second page data indicative of the first printed media and the second printed media respectively.

25. A system according to claim 24 wherein each identifier is indicative of a function and the identifier means stores mapping data indicative of the identifiers and the respective functions.

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26. A system according to claim 25 wherein, upon designation by the user of an identifier, the module determines and initiates the function.

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27. A system according to claim 26 wherein the module determines the function by obtaining the mapping data from the identifier means.

28. A system according to claim 26 wherein the module provides the identifier means with an indication that the respective identifier has been designated and the

identifier means determines and initiates the respective function.

29. A system according to claim 25 wherein the function includes one or more of:
placing an order for goods and/ or services;

5 paying a bill;
accessing a bank account;
corresponding with a predetermined party; and
accessing predetermined information.

10 30. A system according to claim 1 wherein the module stores mapping data indicative of at least the information printed on the media most recently generated and the identifier last designated.

15 31. A system according to claim 30 wherein the module has a cache for storing the mapping data.

32. A system according to claim 31 wherein the media is a page and the cache is sufficiently large to allow the local storage of mapping data indicative of more than one page.

20 33. A system according to claim 30 wherein the third party is a persistent storage provider of the mapping data for the printed media generated by the system.

25 34. A system according to claim 1 wherein the identifier is printed on the respective printed media.

35. A system according to claim 34 wherein the identifier is printed on the

respective printed media by one of the modules.

36. A system for providing printed information to a user that is obtained from a first server of a first party, the system including:

5 a user printer module being provided by a second party for interfacing the user with the first server, the module being responsive to the user requesting first information from the first server for generating a first printed media that displays the first information;

10 a database of a third party for providing an identifier which is included with the first printed media such that designation of the identifier by the user results in the module communicating second information to the first server or to a second server of a fourth party; and

 an account server for providing payments to the third party and for receiving payments from one or more of the first party, the second party and the fourth party.

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